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Message Text

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ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 ISO-00 SY-05 EUR-12 L-03 EB-08 INR-07
SS-15 /057 W
----------101233Z 104507 /12
P R 101116Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9440
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2180

STADIS//////////////////,///

DEPARTMENT FOR A/OC AND A/SY

KARACHI FOR RCO AND RSS

1. AS YOU KNOW, THE GOG HAS COMPLAINED OF INTERFERENCE TO GREEK NAVY COMMUNICATIONS ON 162.125 MHZ, AND ARE PRESSING FOR THE FREQUENCY TO BE CLEARED. ALTHOUGH USED FOR THE HIGHLY IMPORTANT COUNTRY-WIDE EMBASSY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NET, THE ONLY U.S. REGISTRY OF THIS FREQUENCY WITH THE GOG IS FOR VOA RHODES AND VOA KAVALA.

2. WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN INFORMAL COORDINATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR REPLACEMENT FREQUENCIES, INCLUDING A SECOND PAIR OF VHF FREQUENCIES TO ACCOMMODATE THE MUCH-NEEDED SECOND NET. HOWEVER, NEITHER THE U.S. NOR OTHER FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN ATHENS HAVE GOG FREQUENCY AUTORIZATIONS FOR SUCH PURPOSES. AN OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR SUCH ASSIGNMENT IN THE NAME OF THE EMBASSY MAY BE DENIED AND MAY TRIGGER A GREEK EMBASSY WASHINGTON REQUEST FOR RECIPROCITY, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS NOT POSSIBLE. INFORMALLY, THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER CONCERNED HAS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO ASSIGN THESE REPLACEMENT FREQUENCIES, INCLUDING THE SECOND
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FREQUENCY (162.750 MHZ) NOW USED, TO VOA FOR USE AT KAVALA, THESSALONIKI, ATHENS AND RHODES, INCLUDING REPEATERS AT THOSE LOCATIONS.

3. DEPARTMENT AND USIA AUTHORITY IS REQUESTED FOR US OFFICIALLY TO REQUEST ASSIGNMENT OF THE FOUR TENTATIVELY-AGREED FREQUENCIES TO VOA BY THE ROUTINELY-USED PROCEDURE FOR THIS. THIS WILL GIVE US

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THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE COVERAGE AND PROTECTION FOR THIS FREQUENCY USAGE, SHORT OF EMBASSY REGISTRATION WHICHMAY BE IMPOSSIBLE AS EXPLAINED ABOVE.

4. REQUEST EARLIEST DEPARTMENT APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH VOA REQUEST WHILE CLIMATE IS FAVORABLE. UPON GOG APPROVAL, WE WILL ADVISE SO THAT RECRYSTALIZATION OF THE EQUIPMENT CAN PROCEED WITHOUT DELAY.
MILLS

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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